



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## A look at this year's Children's Parade!



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## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:  
JEAN PAUL  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:  
EDDIE KROON  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm  
MAILLEYN ALVARADO  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm  
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:  
MARRYBELL MADURO  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:  
RICKY THOMAS  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:  
EDDIE KROON  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm  
ANGELA FLORES  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

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# George has his day, and so does Abe. But states honor US presidents in lots of ways

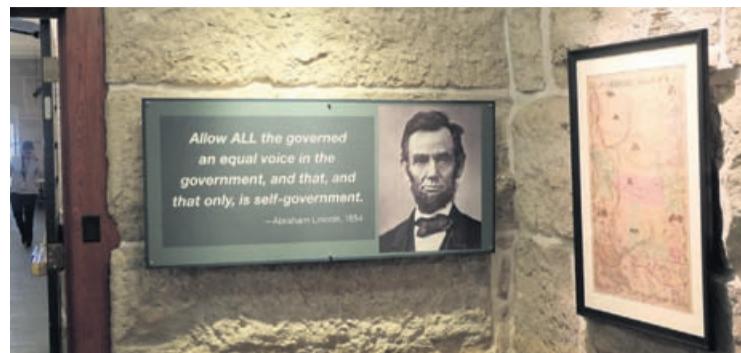
By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)** — Is Presidents Day the most confusing holiday in the U.S.?

States seem to have as many names for it and ideas about whom to honor as there have been presidents. The federal government doesn't even recognize Monday as Presidents Day. It's officially Washington's Birthday, honoring the first president and the original American yardstick for measuring greatness.

The holiday hasn't been celebrated on Washington's actual birthday of Feb. 22, or any other president's birthday, for more than 50 years. Presidents Day became the popular name after the holiday was fixed to a Monday.



A historical exhibit at the Kansas Statehouse includes a display quoting President Abraham Lincoln next to a map showing the original extent of the Kansas-Nebraska territories before Kansas became a state and Lincoln took office in 1861, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas.

Associated Press

The result is a jumble, causing some people to yearn for the holiday to just celebrate Washington again.

"The concept of Presidents Day is a confusing mishmash of ideas," Hunter Abell, a Republican state legislator

from Washington state, said recently. "By celebrating all the presidents, I believe that we inadvertently celebrate none."

Abell's interest is more than academic: he wants his state to rename its Presidents

Day holiday and made his remarks during a hearing on that proposal.

## First in war, first in peace, first with a holiday

The federal holiday for Washington started in 1879, but the current date was fixed by law as of 1971.

States, of course, have been left to their own devices for decades. Thirty-four still use some form of Washington's name in their laws, while 19 use some form of Presidents Day. A few use both, while California law goes with "the third Monday in February." Forty-seven states will celebrate a public holiday on Monday. Indiana and Georgia celebrate Washington by giving state workers the day after Christmas off.

Delaware has no holiday. In 2009, its lawmakers started giving state employees "two floating holidays" instead of honoring individual presidents or having a Presidents Day, according to the state archives.

What's in a name? Plenty, some say

Washington's Mount Vernon estate in Virginia wants to return to a federal holiday on his birthday. Its website says Washington's character and accomplishments shouldn't be "muddled" by a "vague" holiday.

## A dozen states celebrating Washington by name make him share the day with someone else.

In Alabama, Washington shares the spotlight with friend-turned-rival Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president and primary author of the Declaration of Independence. In Arkansas, it's Daisy Gaston Bates, a civil rights leader best known for her work to integrate Little Rock's Central High School in 1957.

Most often, it's Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War president who sometimes outranks even Washington among historians for keeping the Union intact.

Fourteen states have a separate holiday just for Lincoln. Most are on Honest Abe's Feb. 12 birthday. Indiana honors him with a day off for state employees on the day after Thanksgiving, which Lin-

coln is often credited with starting in 1863.

## Other presidents have their days, too

A few states have special days for presidents identified with them: Herbert Hoover in Iowa, Dwight Eisenhower in Kansas, Harry Truman in Missouri, Lyndon Johnson in Texas and John F. Kennedy in Massachusetts.

On JFK's May 29 birthday, his home state also honors favorite sons John Adams, John Quincy Adams and Calvin Coolidge, who was a Vermont farm boy before becoming Massachusetts' governor and, later, the country's 30th president.

Since 1958 in Kentucky, Jan. 30 has been Franklin D. Roosevelt Day, though the president who guided the country out of the Great Depression and through most of World War II was a New Yorker.

In Oklahoma, a Republican state senator has proposed a new holiday for Nov. 5, the anniversary of last year's presidential election, to celebrate President Donald J. Trump Day.

What if you had a holiday and people forgot?

A presidential day doesn't necessarily inspire public fanfare.

Take Herbert Hoover, whose Depression-marked White House work gets low marks from many historians, though he is highly regarded for nonpresidential humanitarian work.

Iowa set aside a day for him in 1969, but it appears to get little notice outside Cedar County, the home of his presidential library.

"Most Iowans are not aware there is a Hoover Day," said Leo Landis, the state historical society's curator, who acknowledged in an email that he once was among them, despite living in Iowa for more than 45 years.

## First in reenactments?

Presidential impersonators pop up in hundreds of places each year. It's not just Lincoln and Washington. The Association of Lincoln Presenters website even lists a portrayer for Rutherford B. Hayes, the often-neglected single-term 19th president. □

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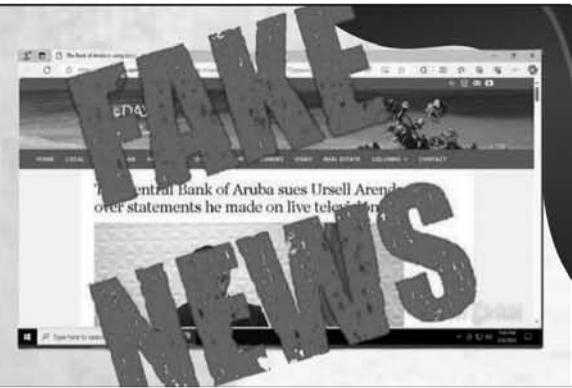
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## Trump administration wants the Supreme Court to let the firing of whistleblower agency head proceed

By MARK SHERMAN and LIND-SAY WHITEHURST  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration wants the Supreme Court to permit the firing of the head of the federal agency dedicated to protecting whistleblowers, according to documents obtained Sunday that would mark the first appeal to the justices since President Donald Trump took office.

The emergency appeal is the start of what probably will be a steady stream from lawyers for the Republican president and his administration seeking to undo lower court rulings that have slowed his second term agenda.

The Justice Department's filing obtained by The Associated Press asks the conservative-majority court to lift a judge's court order temporarily reinstating Hampton Dellinger as the leader of the Office of Special Counsel. Dellinger has argued that the law says he can only be dismissed for problems with the performance of his job, none of which were cited in the



President Donald Trump walks from the Oval Office to departing on Marine One from the South Lawn of the White House, Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

email dismissing him. The petition came hours after a divided appeals court panel refused on procedural grounds to lift the order, which was filed Wednesday and expires on Feb. 26. The case is not expected to be docketed until after the Supreme Court returns from the Presidents Day holiday weekend. The justices would not act until Tuesday at the earliest. It's not clear what reception Trump will get from the conservative-dominated

court that includes three justices he nominated in his first term. The case began last week when Dellinger sued over his removal as head of the Office of Special Counsel, which is responsible for guarding the federal workforce from illegal personnel actions, such as retaliation for whistleblowing. He was appointed by Democratic President Joe Biden and confirmed by the Senate to a five-year term in 2024. Dellinger said the office's

work "needed now more than ever," noting the "unprecedented" number of firings, without cause, of federal employees with civil service protections in recent weeks by the Trump administration.

The administration argues that the order reinstating Dellinger for two weeks wrongly restricts what the president can do. The brief cites the Supreme Court decision that gave Trump immunity from criminal prosecution and reflected a muscular view of executive power.

"Until now, as far as we are aware, no court in American history has wielded an injunction to force the president to retain an agency head," acting Solicitor General Sarah M. Harris wrote.

The brief references some of the dozen or more cases where judges have slowed Trump's agenda, including by ordering the temporary lifting of a foreign aid funding freeze and blocking workers with Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency team from accessing

Treasury Department data for now.

The executive branch has argued since the Carter administration that the Office of Special Counsel is the kind of job where the president should have the power to hire and fire, and letting the order in Dellinger's case stand could "embolden" judges to issue additional blocks in the roughly 70 lawsuits the Trump administration is facing so far, the Justice Department argues.

Dellinger's firing was the latest move in Trump's sweeping effort to shrink and reshape the federal government, testing the limits of well-established civil service protections by moving to dismantle federal agencies and push out staffers.

The independent Office of Special Counsel is separate from Justice Department special counsels such as Jack Smith, who are appointed by the attorney general for specific investigations, such as Smith's criminal investigation of Trump before he returned to the White House. □

## Justice Department fires 20 immigration judges from backlog courts amid major government cuts

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The Trump administration fired 20 immigration judges without explanation, a union official said Saturday amid sweeping moves to shrink the size of the federal government.

On Friday, 13 judges who had yet to be sworn in and five assistant chief immigration judges were dismissed without notice, said Matthew Biggs, president of the

International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, which represents federal workers. Two other judges were fired under similar circumstances in the last week.

It was unclear if they would be replaced. The U.S. Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which runs the courts and oversees its roughly 700 judges, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Sat-

urday. Immigration courts are backlogged with more than 3.7 million cases, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, and it takes years to decide asylum cases. There is support across the political spectrum for more judges and support staff, though the first Trump administration also pressured some judges to decide cases more quickly.



An officer listens to a question as he directs people to a

The Trump administration earlier replaced five top court officials, including Mary Cheng, the agency's acting director. Since Owen, the current leader

and previously an appellate immigration judge, has issued a slew of new instructions, many reversing policies of the Biden administration. □

## Trump administration cuts reach FDA employees in food safety, medical devices and tobacco products

By MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Health Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration's effort to slash the size of the federal workforce reached the Food and Drug Administration this weekend, as recently hired employees who review the safety of food ingredients, medical devices and other products were fired. Probationary employees across the FDA received notices Saturday evening that their jobs were being eliminated, according to three FDA staffers who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The total number of positions eliminated was not clear Sunday, but the firings appeared to focus on employees in the agency's centers for food, medical devices and tobacco products — which includes oversight of electronic cigarettes. It was not clear whether FDA employees who review drugs were exempted.

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced plans to fire 5,200 probationary employees across its agencies, which include the National Institutes of Health, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration campus in Silver Spring, Md., is photographed on Oct. 14, 2015.

vention. People who spoke with the AP on condition of anonymity on Friday said the number of probationary employees to be laid off at the CDC would total nearly 1,300. But as of early Sunday afternoon, about 700 people had received notices, according to three people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. They said none of the CDC layoffs affected the young doctors and researchers who track

diseases in what's known as the Epidemic Intelligence Service. The FDA is headquartered in the Maryland suburbs outside Washington and employs nearly 20,000 people. It's long been a target of newly sworn-in health secretary Robert Kennedy Jr., who last year accused the agency of waging a "war on public health" for not approving unproven treatments such as psychedelics, stem cells and chelation therapy. Kennedy also has called

for eliminating thousands of chemicals and colorings from U.S. foods. But the cuts at FDA include staffers responsible for reviewing the safety of new food additives and ingredients, according to an FDA staffer familiar with the firings. An HHS spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Sunday afternoon. Nearly half of the FDA's \$6.9 billion budget comes from fees paid by companies the agency regulates, in-

Associated Press

cluding drug and medical device makers, which allows the agency to hire extra scientists to swiftly review products. Eliminating those positions will not reduce government spending.

A former FDA official said cutting recent hires could backfire, eliminating staffers who tend to be younger and have more up-to-date technical skills. The FDA's workforce skews toward older workers who have spent one or two decades at the agency, and the Government Accountability Office noted in 2022 that the FDA "has historically faced challenges in recruiting and retaining" staff due to better money in the private sector. "You want to bring in new blood," said Peter Pitts, a former FDA associate commissioner under President George W. Bush. "You want people with new ideas, greater enthusiasm and the latest thinking in terms of technology."

Mitch Zeller, former FDA director for tobacco, said the firings are a way to "demoralize and undermine the spirit of the federal workforce."

"The combined effect of what they're trying to do is going to destroy the ability to recruit and retain talent," Zeller said. □



Students walk into Liberty Elementary School during the first day of class in Murray, Utah, Aug. 17, 2020.

Associated Press

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM  
Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Utah students in as early as kindergarten would be required to learn about firearm safety in the classroom under a bill that passed the state House with overwhelming support Friday.

The Republican-controlled

chamber approved the measure in a 59-10 vote and sent it to the Senate, despite concerns from some gun violence prevention advocates that it places an undue burden on children. Under the proposal, public school students would receive mandatory instruction throughout their K-12 years

## Kindergarteners could learn gun safety in school under a bill gaining momentum in Utah

on how to respond if they encounter a gun. The lessons, which could be presented in a video or by an instructor displaying an actual firearm, would demonstrate best practices for safely handling and storing a gun to prevent accidents.

Elementary age children would learn about gun safety on at least three occasions by the time they reach sixth grade, with the possibility for that instruction to begin in kindergarten, when kids are around five years old.

The bill's Republican sponsor, Rep. Rex Shipp of Cedar City,

said it's aimed at preventing accidental shootings by and of young children. The lessons, he said, will be age-appropriate for each grade level, with younger students learning to avoid touching a gun and alert an adult immediately.

"A lot of times when they don't have any firearms in their homes or don't do any hunting and shooting, then these kids are not taught what to do when they come in contact with a firearm," Shipp said.

One other state, Tennessee, has a law on the books re-

quiring firearm safety training in public schools, but it lets education officials determine in which grade they think it's appropriate for students to start receiving that instruction. The lessons, set to begin next school year, will be annual and cannot include live firearms or ammunition.

A Utah statute already allows firearm safety to be taught in schools, but Shipp said teachers don't currently do so. His bill makes it mandatory but allows parents to opt their kids out of the instruction. □

# South African NGOs worry Trump's aid freeze will cause HIV patients to default on treatment

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

Associated Press

UMZIMKHULU, South Africa

**(AP)** — At a rural village in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, unemployed 19-year-old Nozuko Majola is trying to figure out if she has enough money for the one-hour ride to collect her much-needed HIV medication, usually delivered to her home that can't be easily reached due to rough, untarred roads.

Majola is one of millions of patients in South Africa affected by U.S. President Donald Trump's global foreign aid freeze, raising worries about HIV patients defaulting on treatment, infection rates going up and eventually a rise in deaths.

In 2024, think tank Human Sciences Research Council released figures showing that Majola's province recorded the second-highest HIV prevalence in the country, at 16%, with at least 1,300 young people estimated to contract the disease every week. KwaZulu-Natal also had the highest number of people living with HIV in South Africa in 2022, about 1,980,000. The country counts more than 7.5 million people infected with the virus that causes AIDS — more than any other nation.

There are 5.5 million South Africans receiving antiretroviral treatment, whose



**Unemployed 19-year-old South African Nozuko Majola walks with her children at her Umzimkhulu home Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, is one of millions of patients in South Africa affected by U.S. President Donald Trump's global foreign aid freeze, raising worries about HIV patients defaulting on treatment.**

Associated Press

funding is now in question after Trump suspended the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. It contributes more than \$400 million a year to South Africa's HIV programs and non-governmental organizations, about 17% of the total funding, according to the Health Ministry.

Globally, PEPFAR is credited with saving at least 26 million lives since its inception in 2003, according to the U.N. AIDS agency.

Last week, a federal judge ordered the Trump admin-

istration to temporarily lift the funding freeze, while the U.S. Embassy in South Africa said PEPFAR projects would resume under a limited waiver. However, aid groups dealing with HIV have already shuttered with closure notices hanging at the entrances and PEPFAR-branded vehicles standing idle, with patients diverted to struggling health facilities. Most of the PEPFAR funding is channeled through non-governmental organizations, which run programs that compliment health care

services provided by the government.

For Majola and other HIV patients in the Umzimkhulu region, where unemployment is rife and most people rely on subsistence farming and government welfare grants, the aid freeze has disrupted their lives.

"Things will be tough around here, and a lot of people will default on their treatment because we really struggle with transport," she said. "The mobile clinics hardly come here."

The freeze has hurt various

groups that can no longer provide treatment, causing an influx of patients to already overstretched public facilities. Along with the medication, these programs also allowed health personnel to test HIV patients in far-flung villages, which has been a lifeline for many, especially those afraid to visit public facilities due to the social stigma attached to HIV. In addition, nearly 15,000 health workers whose salaries are funded through PEPFAR are left wondering if they have lost their livelihoods.

"People who were doing administration and data capturing, whose salaries were funded by PEPFAR, have left. We are a small facility and we cannot handle such a workload," said the manager, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Nozuko Ngcaweni has been on HIV treatment for about 30 years. One of her children was also infected and died at age 17. She said the aid suspension already impacted her community and many missed their treatment. "Not long ago, we said by 2030, we want to see an HIV-free generation. But if things remain as is, we will not achieve that. We will have to deal with deaths," she said. □

## U.K.'s Starmer tells hunger-striking mum he will press Egypt to release her son

**LONDON (AP)** — British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has told a mother who has been on hunger strike for 140 days that he will press the Egyptian government to release her son. In a statement Sunday, Starmer confirmed that he met Laila Soueif and said he will do "all that I can" to secure the release of Alaa Abd el-Fattah, a British-Egyptian dual national who has spent more than five years in an Egyptian prison, accused of "spreading false news" on social media. "We will continue to raise his case at the highest levels of the Egyptian government

and press for his release," Starmer said.

A representative of the family said the meeting took place on Friday morning inside the prime minister's offices at 10 Downing Street and that it was the first time the pair had met.

Soueif, 68, has been on hunger strike since Sep. 29, the day her son was supposed to be released, consuming nothing but herbal tea, black coffee and rehydration salts. After more than four months, Soueif has lost around 25 kilograms (55 pounds).

She took her campaign directly to the Foreign Office

in December, camping out in front of it every weekday to make sure officials notice her. When that yielded no results, she switched in mid-January to the gates of Starmer's office — the famous black door of 10 Downing Street.

"The great majority of mothers are prepared to die for their children; it just takes different forms," she said earlier this month. "Most mothers, if their children are in actual danger, you're prepared to die."

One of Egypt's most prominent pro-democracy activists, the 43-year-old Abd



**Leila Soueif, who has been on hunger strike for more than 129 days seeking the release of her son Alaa Abd el-Fattah from prison in Egypt, stands outside Downing Street in London, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.**

Associated Press

el-Fattah has spent most of the past 14 years behind bars since taking part in the 2011 uprising that toppled former President Hosni Mubarak. His most recent crime was "liking" a Facebook post

describing torture in Egyptian prisons. Abd el-Fattah has been in custody since September 2019, and was sentenced to five years in prison after a trial before an emergency security court. □

# Congo says Rwanda-backed rebels occupy a 2nd major city in its mineral-rich east

By CHINEDU ASADU, PASCAL CINAMULA AND JANVIER BARAHIGA

Associated Press

BUKAVU, Congo (AP) —

Rwanda-backed rebels have "occupied" a second major city in mineral-rich eastern Congo, Congo's government said Sunday, as M23 rebels positioned themselves at the governor's office in Bukavu and pledged to clean up after the "old regime."

Associated Press journalists witnessed scores of residents cheering on the rebels after they entered Bukavu following a dayslong march from Goma, a city of 2 million people they seized last month. The rebels saw little resistance from government forces against the unprecedented expansion of their reach after their years of fighting. Congo's government vowed to restore order in Bukavu, a city of 1.3 million people, but there was no sign of soldiers. Many were seen fleeing on Saturday alongside thousands of civilians.

The M23 are the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups vying for control of eastern Congo's trillions of dollars in mineral wealth that's critical for much of the world's technology. The rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neighboring Rwanda, according to the United Nations experts. The fighting has displaced



M23 rebels guard outside the South Kivu province administrative office, at the centre of east Congo's second-largest city, Bukavu, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

more than 6 million people in the region, creating the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

Rebels vow to 'clean up' disorder

Bernard Maheshe Byamungu, one of the M23 leaders who has been sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council for rights abuses, stood in front of the South Kivu governor's office in Bukavu and told residents they have been living in a "jungle."

"We are going to clean up the disorder left over from the old regime," Byamungu said, as some in the small crowd of young men cheered the

rebels on to "go all the way to Kinshasa," Congo's capital, nearly 1,000 miles away.

The M23 did not announce any seizure of Bukavu, unlike its announcement when taking Goma, which had brought swift international condemnation. Spokesmen for the M23 didn't respond to questions Sunday.

Congo's communications ministry in a statement on social media acknowledged for the first time that Bukavu had been "occupied" and said the national government was "doing everything possible to restore order and territorial integrity" in the region.

One Bukavu resident, Blaise Byamungu, said the rebels marched into the city that had been "abandoned by all the authorities and without any loyalist force."

"Is the government waiting for them to take over other towns to take action? It's cowardice," Byamungu added.

Fears of regional escalation. Unlike in 2012, when the M23 briefly seized Goma and withdrew after international pressure, analysts have said the rebels this time are eyeing political power.

The fighting in Congo has connections with a decades-

long ethnic conflict. The M23 says it is defending ethnic Tutsis in Congo. Rwanda has claimed the Tutsis are being persecuted by Hutus and former militias responsible for the 1994 genocide of 800,000 Tutsis and others in Rwanda. Many Hutus fled to Congo after the genocide and founded the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda militia group.

Rwanda says the militia group is "fully integrated" into the Congolese military, which denies it.

But the new face of the M23 in the region — Corneille Nangaa — is not Tutsi, giving the group "a new, more diverse, Congolese face, as M23 has always been seen as a Rwanda-backed armed group defending Tutsi minorities," according to Christian Moleka, a political scientist at the Congolese think tank Dypol.

Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi, whose government on Saturday asserted that Bukavu remained under its control, has warned of the risk of a regional expansion of the conflict.

Congo's forces were being supported in Goma by troops from South Africa and in Bukavu by troops from Burundi. But Burundi's president, Evariste Ndayishimiye, appeared to suggest on social media his country would not retaliate in the fighting. □



Argentina's President Javier Milei speaks after receiving this year's Roepke Prize for Civil Society of the Liberal Institute at the Congress centre in Kloten, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 24, 2025.

Associated Press

By RAMIRO BARREIRO  
Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO (AP) — Argentine lawyers filed fraud

charges against President Javier Milei in criminal court on Sunday for promoting a cryptocurrency on his social

## Argentine lawyers charge President Milei with fraud over cryptocurrency promotion

media, one of the lawyers told The Associated Press.

On Friday, Milei posted on X about \$LIBRA, a coin that he said was aimed at "encouraging economic growth by funding small businesses and startups."

He deleted the post a few hours later and the value of the currency collapsed, causing millions of dollars in losses to its brief investors, according to financial site Dexscreener.

The coin, developed by KIP Protocol and Hayden Davis, could be obtained by accessing a link that directed users to a website called

vivalalibertadproject.com, referring to the well-known phrase with which Milei closes speeches and messages on his social media.

The President's Office said in a Saturday statement that Milei was not involved in any stage of the cryptocurrency's development and decided to remove the post to avoid speculation and limit further exposure, following the public reaction to the project's launch.

Jonatan Baldiviezo, a lawyer and one of the plaintiffs, told the AP that they saw an illicit association to commit "an indeterminate number of

frauds" in the episode. "Within this illicit association, the crime of fraud was committed, in which the president's actions were essential," he said.

Baldiviezo signed the petition with Marcos Zelaya, another lawyer; the engineer María Eva Koutsovitis; and the economist Claudio Lozano, who presided over the Argentine Central Bank during former president Alberto Fernández's administration. Criminal justice is expected to assign a judge to the case or refer it to a prosecutor for further investigation on Monday. □

## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 1/2 cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has



become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

#### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols

of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

#### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Can-greu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

#### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

#### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

#### Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

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## Infini Reopens: A Story of Resilience, Gratitude, and Renewal

After several challenging days of recovery following the severe flooding that impacted our operations, Infini by Urvin Croes is pleased to announce that we are fully open once again.

Seeing our kitchen flooded was a moment of great concern for our entire team. However, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, the support of our families, friends, suppliers, and the encouraging messages from our community, we found the strength to rebuild, return stronger than ever, and do so in record time.

### A Safer and More Resilient Infini

In response to this unprecedented challenge, we have implemented significant measures to ensure the safety and integrity of our restaurant moving forward. New drainage systems have been installed to effectively manage any potential future flooding, protecting our space from similar incidents.



We have also reinforced our infrastructure, including repairs to the front windows and an updated inspection protocol for critical equipment, creating a safer environment for our guests and staff alike.

These efforts are part of our unwavering commitment to excellence—not just in culinary artistry, but in the overall experience and security we provide to everyone who steps into Infini.

### A New Chapter Begins

This experience has reminded

us of the power of unity and resilience. We are filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who supported us through this journey. We are thrilled to welcome you back to Infini with our new **Menu 12**, which our team has worked tirelessly to create. This exciting menu celebrates the art of gastronomy and the rich culinary heritage of Aruba and the Caribbean, all in partnership with our valued local suppliers.

However, we must note that due to the damage sustained, some of our equipment is still out of operation. This temporarily limits our ability to accommodate dietary restrictions, allergies, or preferences with the level of care we usually provide. We will inform you as soon as we are able to offer vegan options or other dietary accommodations once again. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciate your understanding as we continue to improve our op-



erations.

### Reserve Your Experience Today

We are open and ready to welcome you back to rediscover the limitless possibilities of fine dining. Book your table now and be part of this exciting new chapter:

+297 6993982  
reservations@infiniaruba.com  
Let's create unforgettable moments together once more. □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Casa del Mar Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Am-

bassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Casa del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

### The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Casa del Mar Beach Resort"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



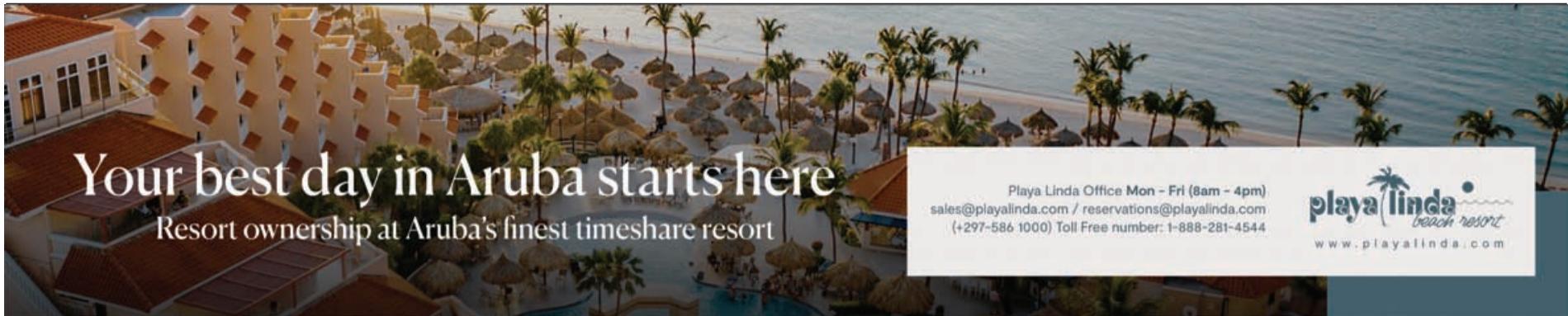
### The three levels of honor are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador

Mr. Jorge De Napoli from Massachusetts, United



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## This weekend was full of color and sequin A look at this year's Children's Parade!



This past weekend, Aruba enjoyed two children's parades: the Children's Parade in Noord and the Children's Parade in Oranjestad. Both parades were full of a festive carnival atmosphere and fantasy.

On Saturday, the streets of Noord were filled with participants dancing to the rhythm of carnival songs and dressed in their creative fantasy costumes. With a little over 350 participants on foot, the parade was a beautiful and lively event.

This year, Noord had the theme "Neighborhood Roads", which was represented in various ways by the different groups participating in the parade.

On Sunday, the Children's Parade took place in Oranjestad, where children danced and jumped in the streets to the rhythm of different carnival songs.

The Children's Parade in Oranjestad featured a total of seven groups. Centro di Bario Noord opened the parade, accompanied by Aruba's Children's Carnival Queen, Camila-Victoria Feliciana.

### The parade groups included:

Champagne Kids Carnival Group as the second group, with the theme "World of Museums".

Don Flip Carnival Group as the third group, with the fantasy theme "Let's Rodeo".

TOB Kids Carnival Group as the fourth group, with the theme "Art is Us".

Empire Kids Carnival Group as the fifth group, with the theme "Moon and Sun".

Unity Carnival Group as the sixth group, with the theme "Let's Celebrate".

Little Groovers Carnival Group as the seventh and final group, with the theme "Future Professionals".

The Children's Parade in San Nicolas will take place on February 23, and as is tradition, the children's carnival season will conclude with the burning of "Momito" after the parade. □



## Cocktails with a Story: Caya House Brings a Unique Flavor Experience to Aruba

This season, Caya House invites guests to discover a cocktail menu that blends unique flavors from Latin America and the Caribbean into every drink. Under the direction of mixologist David Posada, each cocktail at Caya House tells a story, designed to take guests on a sensory journey that captures the vibrant essence of the region through every ingredient.

"At Caya, we believe cocktails are more than just drinks. They're an opportunity to experience the distinctive flavors and aromas of our lands," says David Posada, mixologist. Each cocktail is crafted with precision, combining modern and traditional techniques with exotic fruits, spices, and artisanal spirits.

### Among the menu favorites are:

- **Warawara:** A refreshing mix of Caravella orancello, Sloe gin, pumpkin spice, and banana syrup, served over spear ice. This cocktail evokes the essence of autumn in the tropics.



- **Tu Corazon:** A standout drink with açai-infused cachaca and a hint of raw sugar, topped with a crisp slice of red beet for a unique, earthy finish.
- **Un Recuerdo:** A bold fusion of mezcal with tree tomato, butter infused with parmesan and shiitake, green tea cordial, and green chartreuse. Perfect for those looking for a robust, one-of-a-kind experience.



**Caya House** also features its signature **Lulada**, made with Flor de Caña rum infused with lulo, condensed milk, and lime leather—a perfect balance of sweetness and freshness for those seeking a tropical twist.

These cocktails are part of the "Caya Experience," with a wider variety of options for guests to explore, notes David, highlighting

the creativity behind each one. With this unique offering, Caya House continues to stand out as an iconic destination for those in search of authentic Caribbean flavors in **Aruba**.

Caya House invites alike to enjoy this innovative cocktail menu in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba. Each drink is a celebration of Latin-Caribbean culture and flavor! □

## Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "funchi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

### Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn

flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

### Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour\*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

### Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.



When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Alvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H.



Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives. At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that

the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.



locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

## The Lionfish And its threat to our marine wild life

**(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.**

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful

than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.



For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam



free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making. □

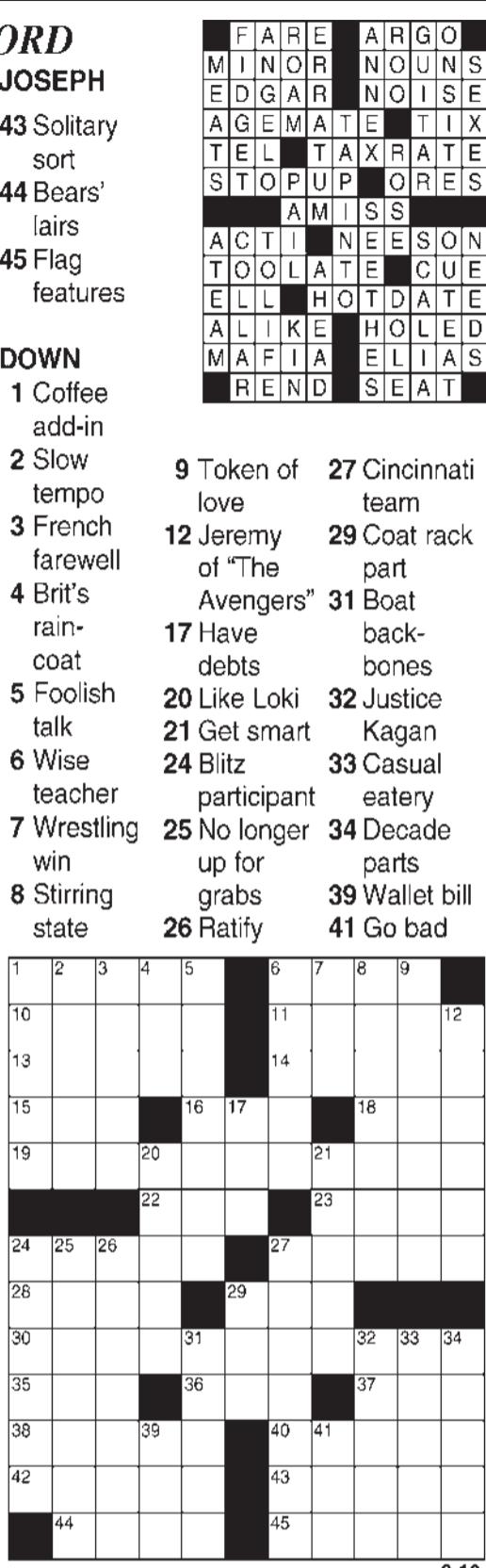
They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Workshop gripper 43 Solitary sort
- 6 Practice for a fight 44 Bears' lairs
- 10 Weather aid 45 Flag features
- 11 Electrician, at times 1 Coffee add-in
- 13 Writer Jong 2 Slow tempo
- 14 Battery end 3 French farewell
- 15 Grow older 4 Brit's rain-coat
- 16 Male cat 5 Foolish talk
- 18 Caterer's dispenser 6 Wise teacher
- 19 California peak with an observatory 7 Wrestling win
- 22 Bullfight cry 8 Stirring state
- 23 Simplicity 9 Token of love
- 24 Frighten 12 Jeremy of "The Avengers"
- 27 Farm machine 17 Have debts
- 28 Swiss peaks 20 Like Loki
- 29 For each 21 Get smart
- 30 Canaveral's former name 24 Blitz
- 35 Cassis cocktail 25 No longer up for grabs
- 36 Nest sight 26 Ratify
- 37 Tell tales 27 Cincinnati team
- 38 Ham it up 29 Coat rack part
- 40 Sports setting 31 Boat
- 42 Whoop it up 32 Justice Kagan
- 43
- 44



A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-19

## CRYPTOQUOTE

F N E Z Q J P V S S Z R K F R L J V U P J  
P E V K U R B G R L J R K N J B C J B G R Z  
R B G R L J R K N J B K V L J . P J E B J  
K N J R Z J G P J ' T J X J J Z P E V K V Z Q  
U R B . — X E B E F D R X E L E

**Cryptoquote:** WHO NEEDS LOVE WHEN YOU'VE GOT LOX? THEY BOTH STINK, BUT ONLY ONE TASTES GOOD. — "THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL"

## Cruise ship Schedule: February 17 - 23 2025

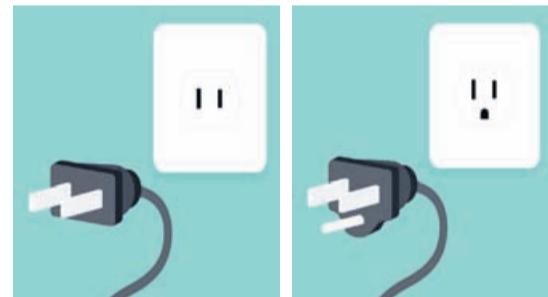
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
MON	17	RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.59	C 1
TUE	18	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C 1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I 1
WED	19	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	B 1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	****	C 1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00	I 1
THU	20	EMERALD PRINCESS - Dept.	****	22.00	C
SAT	22	OCEANIA SIRENA	11.00	21.00	C 1
SUN	23	EXPLORA II	08.00	21.00	C 1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



### Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





## McAvoy's hit on McDavid was another U.S. message sent at the 4 Nations Face-Off

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

**MONTREAL (AP) —** Charlie McAvoy lined up Connor McDavid and delivered a textbook hit that sent the best hockey player in the world careening into the glass and down to the ice. A mere 19 seconds later, Jake Guentzel scored the tying goal — McDavid scored the first one — on the way to the United States beating Canada at the 4 Nations Face-Off on Saturday night in an epic clash of the two rivals. Top-line forward Matthew Tkachuk, who fought two seconds after the puck dropped to send a message, raved about McAvoy making a big impression.

"That also is a message-sending moment — probably one of the plays of the game," Tkachuk said. "They just scored a goal, the building was rocking and Charlie comes there and pops McDavid, like one of the hardest hits I've seen."

And it wasn't McAvoy's only hit. He also rocked Sidney Crosby in the first minute. Coach Mike Sullivan, whose daughter Kiley is married to McAvoy, has several times mentioned how special it is to be on the same team with his son-in-law for the first time. "Charlie is a fierce competitor," Sullivan said. "I watch him when he plays for the Bruins. I watch what he does



Canada's Sidney Crosby (87) is upended by United States' Charlie McAvoy during the first period of a 4 Nations Face-Off hockey game in Montreal on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

for them. It's been such a privilege for me to have an opportunity to coach him here at an event like this." Tkachuk called McAvoy one of the best U.S. players against Canada, adding, "I think the rest of us, we followed him."

It was easy to follow McAvoy given how he was leading by throwing his body around with reckless abandon.

"That hit Charlie threw on (McDavid) was kind of a game-changer," defense

partner Zach Werenski said. "He's been known to do that. He's great with his size, he's really good defensively and I thought that was a perfectly timed hit to get our team going in the right direction."

McAvoy now gets to play the championship game in his NHL home arena on Thursday night at TD Garden in Boston.

Dude, where's Makar? Cale Makar missed Canada's game against the U.S. with what the team has called an

illness. He took part in an optional practice Sunday and coach Jon Cooper said Makar was trending in the right direction to play in a must-win game against Finland on Monday, but it will be a game-time decision.

"I'm going to do everything I can to play," Makar told reporters in Boston. "I got to do what's, unfortunately, best for myself and make sure that I'm ready to go for the rest of the season."

Granlund the OT hero

Scoring in overtime for Finland against Sweden on Saturday, Mikael Granlund showed the Dallas Stars what they are getting after they acquired the solid, all-around forward in a trade with the San Jose Sharks on Feb. 1. Granlund had defenseman Niko Mikkola with him on a 2-on-1 rush and captain Aleksander Barkov on his way, and yet he waited it out and fired a perfect shot past Linus Ullmark for the game-winning goal.

Coach Antti Pennanen called it a good decision for Granlund, a pass-first player, to shoot.

"I finally shot one of those," Granlund said. "I'm glad it went in."

Sweden goalie decision Ullmark replaced Filip Gustavsson in goal for Sweden after one period against Finland, a decision coach Sam Hallam said was because of illness. Gustavsson allowed two goals on four shots before being pulled.

Hallam said Sunday that Gustavsson was feeling better but that a decision would come Monday on who starts in net. Ullmark should be a safe bet, especially because, like McAvoy, he has a lot of experience playing in Boston: He tended goal for the Bruins for three seasons, including 2022-23 when he won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goaltender. □



South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley reacts as her team plays against UConn during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Columbia, S.C., Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.

Associated Press

By PETE IACOBELLI

Associated Press

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —** Dawn Staley tried to smile when entered for her post-game

media session, faithfully followed up the steps by her dog, Champ. "My emotional support dog," Staley joked. South Carolina's coach

## No. 4 South Carolina sees 71-game home winning streak end

and her defending national champions certainly need some support after the last of their impressive streaks, a run of 71 straight wins at loud, supportive Colonial Life Arena, ended in an 87-58 loss to No. 7 UConn on Sunday. Top-ranked UCLA ended the Gamecocks' overall win streak with a 77-62 victory last November. A week ago, South Carolina fell at No. 3 Texas, 66-62, to finish what had been 57 straight regular-season Southeastern Conference wins.

"All of our streaks have been broken this year," Staley said. "But it's been a hell of run."

This final one, which began after a 54-46 loss to North Carolina State on Dec. 3, 2020, had filled up the 18,000-seat arena game after game where people eagerly came to watch the Gamecocks pile up victories.

They were there again Sunday, a sell-out at 18,000 strong, hoping to see the Gamecocks continue the program's record run.

But it was Azzi Fudd, Sarah Strong and coach Geno Auriemma who used relentless defense and non-stop offense to end South Carolina's four-game win streak in the series. Fudd finished

with 28 points off six 3-pointers while Strong, the nation's top incoming prospect this season, had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Fudd said she and her teammates didn't anticipate a blowout win. "But we were ready for whatever they threw at us," she said.

Strong's mother is Allison Feaster, a South Carolina native who once held the state high school scoring record and had been a teammate of Staley's on the WNBA's Charlotte Sting.

"Impressive," was how Staley described Strong. "We wanted her." □

# Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton is uncertain for opening day because of tendinitis in both elbows

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — New York Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton is uncertain for opening day because of chronic tendinitis in both elbows.

A five-time All-Star, the 35-year-old dealt with the issue last season and through the postseason, when he hit seven home runs as the Yankees reached the World Series for the first time since 2009.

Asked whether the issue could impact Stanton's availability for the March 27 opener against Milwaukee, manager Aaron Boone responded: "Tough to say." "I'm not going to put any timeline on it. We're just going to be smart with it and kind of listen to it a little bit," he said Sunday. "I'm expecting him to be OK. It's just a matter of when we're going to start really rolling it out to feel like — give us the best chance to get as much of him as we can."

In addition, outfielder Trent Grisham pulled his left hamstring a few weeks ago in training but is running at close to full speed.

"He shouldn't be too far behind," Boone said.

Boone made the announcements as position players reported ahead of Monday's first full-squad workout.

"Giancarlo's a little behind just dealing with some elbow stuff that he dealt with last year, actually both elbows kind of really akin to tennis elbow," Boone said. "This is something that if we're full bore in we'd be grinding away probably, but just want to make sure we give it the proper time and just give ourselves to be the best position throughout the year." Stanton has not played a season without a trip to the injured list since 2018.

Following the departure of Juan Soto, who left for a record \$765 million, 15-year contract with the New York Mets, Stanton's bat is key to support Yankees captain Aaron Judge in the batting order.

Boone anticipated the elbows will be season-long issues.



New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton runs the bases during the sixth inning in Game 4 of the baseball AL Championship Series against the Cleveland Guardians, Oct. 18, 2024, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

"Maintenance is just kind of treatment with the modalities that you have available you," Boone said. "You play through some discomfort with it but just trying to maintain it the best you can and take advantage of those —

when he does have an off day."

Stanton signed a then-record \$325 million, 13-year contract with the Marlins ahead of the 2015 season and had 59 homers and 132 RBIs in 2017, winning the NL MVP award.

He was acquired by the Yankees that December and hit 38 homers with 100 RBIs in his first season with New York. He missed 266 of 708 games over the next five seasons because of a series of injuries that included strains of right biceps, right knee, left hamstring (twice) and left quadriceps along with right ankle inflammation and left Achilles tendinitis.

Stanton arrived at spring training last February far slimmer and had 27 homers and 72 RBIs while playing 114 games; he was sidelined by a strained left hamstring between June 22 and July 29. "A lot of people even forget about how good his regular season was and how productive he was and how important he was to us having

— I think ultimately scoring the most runs in the league," Boone said.

Stanton batted .273 with 16 RBIs in the postseason. He was exclusively a hitter last season and has not played the field since Sept. 9, 2023. "He's huge for us," Boone said. "You take a big right-handed bat out there, you're a little unbalanced there."

Bench coach also hurt  
Bench coach Brad Ausmus pulled a hamstring badly in a pickup basketball game on Saturday, Boone said.

Boone referenced his own January 2004 injury, when he tore his left ACL in a pickup basketball game and missed the season — a mishap that caused the Yankees to acquire Alex Rodriguez from Texas. □

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## Start this year's vacation with this amazing experience in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort

Water's Edge Restaurant is a jewel many had the pleasure to find!

**Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.**

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

### Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic

French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



### Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

### Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

### Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □

 **WATER'S EDGE**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website [watersedge-aruba.com](http://watersedge-aruba.com)